

THE COMPLETE HANDBOOK FOR MEDICAL SECRETARIES AND ASSISTANTS—Robert Lee Dennis, M.D., Director, Department of Pathology; and Director and Instructor, Medical Technology School, San Jose Hospital, San Jose, Ca.; Jean Monty Doyle, R.R.L., Director, San Jose Medical Personnel and Secretarial Agency; Former Secretary, Medical Advisory Committee, Medical Assistants Program, San Jose City College, San Jose, Ca.; Member, American Medical Record Association; Medical Illustrations by Kathryn Coburn, Little, Brown, and Company, 34 Beacon Street, Boston (02106), 1971. 576 pages, \$9.50.

In order to evaluate this text and write a fair review I enlisted the help and interpretative opinions of two medical assistants, Mrs. Wini Schwartz and Mrs. Ann Shell. Both are certified medical assistants with many years of experience in their field.

To say that any book or text is a "complete handbook" is a misnomer. Keeping in mind the various roles and functions of the medical assistant, this book falls short of covering the field especially if it was intended for use in a physician's office. It is primarily hospital oriented and might be of some value in that environment with alterations, but then it would require a new title.

It is a difficult and cumbersome text to read. The illustrations are good but rather limited.

This handbook touches upon office assisting, briefly, in chapters 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Chapter 2 (Emergency First Aid) seems out of sequence since it appears between "Office Orientation" and "Secretarial Skills." Chapter 6 (Hospital Department) does not seem relevant to duties in a physician's office. Pages 81-315 which encompass chapters 8 and 9 (Medical Terminology, Anatomy and Physiology) would seem better placed to the back of the book. Chapter 10 (Clinical Laboratory) and chapter 11 (Radiology) would be very useful in the physician's office since they are quite comprehensive in dealing with the names of tests, description and method of collection of specimens and instructions to the patient for laboratory procedures and x-ray examinations. These chapters would seem better situated toward the front of the text. Chapter 12 (The Physician) might be meaningful to new medical assistants and would lend to a more comfortable location in the front of the handbook. Chapter 13 (The Medical History and Physical Examination) would best be located with the five chapters noted above dealing with office assisting. Pages 393-490, which is chapter 14 (Medical Reports) would be of value to a transcriber in a hospital transcribing pool.

This handbook does not compare favorably with other texts, some of which are excellent volumes, as a reference for in service medical assistants and secretaries.

Most other textbooks do not purport to cover all aspects of medical assisting, however this one seems to as stated on its cover. . . . "The most complete book of its kind, this practical handbook offers a single comprehensive source of essential information, tailored specifically to meet the need of medical secretaries and assistants."

One should not be misled by the use of the words "complete handbook" in titles . . . in most cases it is pure presumption on the part of the authors, neither of whom, in this particular case, come in direct contact with usual medical office practice.

PEARY B. BERGER, M.D.

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ATLAS OF TRANSBRONCHIAL BIOPSY—Early Diagnosis of Peripheral Pulmonary Carcinomas—Eitaka Tsuboi, M.D., Chief of Diagnosis Division, Department of Radiology, National Cancer Center Hospital, The Williams & Wilkins Company, 428 E. Preston, Baltimore, Md. (21202), 1970. 151 pages, \$34.00.

This excellent treatise should be read by every pulmonary disease oriented physician and surgeon. It is featured by unusual clarity of writing and beautiful well-selected illustrations and photographs. There is a delightful accuracy of presentation wherein nothing is left

out, and nothing irrelevant is added. The order and arrangement of the presentation is faultless. The reasons for the studies and manipulations are well outlined, the techniques are given step-by-step in precise detail, and results are simply presented.

In essence, this book is directed towards the early diagnosis of bronchogenic carcinoma, or as they describe it, the diagnosis of early carcinoma at a curable stage.

It is pointed out that tumors in the hilar areas cannot be found at an early stage by radiologic examinations and their discovery depends upon development of symptoms such as hemoptysis or cough followed by bronchoscopic examinations and cytology.

On the other hand lung field carcinoma can be revealed at an asymptomatic stage by appropriate x-ray examination but a cytological diagnosis of an abnormal shadow is of paramount importance. This can be accomplished by trans-bronchial biopsy following a bronchographic study which is necessary to demonstrate the involved bronchus or bronchi. The technique involves catheterization of the involved bronchus enabling a curettement of the lesion for a biopsy. An 80 percent positive cytologic diagnosis can be obtained.

They state that biopsy of the single lesion takes approximately 20 minutes during which time the examiner's hands are exposed under x-ray television to a total of 20 r R/h. They believe this is a nominal radiation exposure but advise strict protective measures.

Two criticisms can be offered. Quite a number of these lesions are of a size that could be more expeditiously diagnosed by needle aspiration biopsy. This technique is alluded to in two or three places in the text book but is not compared and contrasted appropriately in the preliminary discussion of techniques that are available and valuable in the diagnosis of early carcinoma of the lung. Also omitted from discussion is the x-ray evaluation of a given nodule newly discovered and known to be growing in size. In such single lesions most thoracic surgeons, having ruled out primary malignancy elsewhere in the body, would proceed with open surgical biopsy and removal, with a well over 90 percent degree of accuracy and avoiding other available but unnecessary diagnostic procedures. We are all concerned today with over-utilization of hospital bed space, x-ray facilities, laboratory facilities, and so on. The judgment of an experienced clinician in the selection of diagnostic procedures is of pragmatic importance.

The reviewer feels that the technique of trans-bronchial biopsy as so beautifully presented and illustrated fills a real need in selected cases; not in those where there is an isolated nodule of significant size that can either be biopsied by needle aspiration or by open thoracotomy, but in those cases where there is a positive cytology, or a segmental bronchial obstruction and yet no significantly sized nodule can be identified for the simpler methods of biopsy.

BEATTY H. RAMSAY, M.D.

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CONCEPTS OF DISEASE—Edited by Joel G. Brunson, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Pathology, University of Mississippi School of Medicine; and Edward A. Gall, M.D., Professor of Pathology, Vice President and Director, University of Cincinnati Medical Center. The Macmillan Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York City (10022), 1971. 1134 pages, \$23.95.

This book is designed for students of medicine. The editors have suggested that clinicians may be interested in this approach to the study of disease which, stated simply, is an attempt to single out the important basic elements of disease in cells and tissues and the use of details as illustrative material. It is suggested that this

will prevent obscuring of concepts of disease by the vast body of detailed information concerning cells and their behavior that has become available in recent years.

Thirty-eight authors have contributed to the text. Probably in part because of this multiple authorship, the realization of the expressed goals has been achieved with varying success. There are still many details enumerated without any clear relationship to concepts. The book, however, is a serious effort to represent pathology in terms of the contributions of modern science without losing the heritage of this discipline. Electron micrographs, for example, are used liberally to illustrate ultrastructural changes in disease but these do not constitute a separate approach; they build upon knowledge that has been accumulated in other ways. A sharp separation of general and special pathology has been avoided, but several chapters compare differences in inflammatory reactions, cell functions and growth disturbances in different organ systems.

The book offers a helpful medium for viewing pathology in the context of present-day knowledge of biological science.

ALVIN J. COX, M.D.

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TREATING THE TREATMENT FAILURES—The Challenge of Chronic Schizophrenia—Arnold M. Ludwig, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, Ky. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York City (10017), 1971. 235 pages, \$12.00.

Dr. Arnold Ludwig has been interested over a long span of time in the treatment of chronic, treatment-refractory schizophrenic patients. Although, as Dr. Ludwig acknowledges, much of the data from this book has already been published, he justifies a book now because he wants to "summarize" his overall impressions on this particular subsample. He directs it to "clinicians charged with the care and treatment of these kinds of patients. Because they are obliged to act, to do something in the present, and cannot put these patients on 'ice' indefinitely until researchers come up with definitive answers to the etiology and therapy of chronic schizophrenia, clinicians require some practical guidelines and principles, at least on an operational basis, for therapeutic action."

The book contains a mixture of philosophy (for example, on treatment of schizophrenia, chronicity of schizophrenia, etc.), impressions (for example, attitudes of staff working with chronic patients and the discouragement they feel) and some helpful, practical "how-to-do-it" notions about management.

In addition, four experiments designed to modify schizophrenic symptomatology *without the use of medication* are presented. The first used small-group interaction as a lever for increased functional behavior. It failed. The second used a "buddy system" to change behavior and was successful. The third used a "double conditioning technique" to operantly condition some chronic schizophrenics to become operant conditioners ("the therapist-patients") of other chronic schizophrenics ("the patient-patients"). Results indicated that "therapist-patients" did better than "patient-patients." Finally, an experimental treatment program comparing "non-specific influences," usually lumped under the term "milieu therapy," was compared to a control program for a week. There was significantly greater improvement in the experimental group than in the control.

Finally, there is a discussion of aftercare and its crucial importance in posthospital outcome.

What Dr. Ludwig has done—and it is no small accomplishment—is to show that inpatients with chronic

schizophrenia who have not responded to other modalities can improve with various nondrug-related strategies while in the hospital. Whether or not they can maintain improvement within the community (and if so, for how long) is another question. But this is not the point of his work.

I think this book would be useful (not mandatory—but it's nice to know others are struggling with similar problems) to professionals working with psychiatric inpatients (regardless of diagnosis) or working with chronic schizophrenic outpatients using nonpsychopharmacologic methods.

There is an index and a not too complete bibliography. For example, the studies by May and those by Grinspoon, Ewalt and Shader have not been included. Their work with schizophrenics, comparing the relative efficacy of both drug and nondrug treatment strategies, in my opinion, bear directly on the issues Dr. Ludwig discusses.

Ref.: May P: Treatment of Schizophrenia: A Comparative Study of Five Treatment Methods, New York, Science House, 1968

Grinspoon L, Ewalt J, Shader R: Psychotherapy and pharmacotherapy in chronic schizophrenia. Am J Psychiat 12: 1645-1652, 1968

IRA D. GLICK, M.D.

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SHANDS' HANDBOOK OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY—Eighth Edition—R. Beverly Raney, Sr., M.D., Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chairman Emeritus of Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of North Carolina School of Medicine and North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, N.C.; H. Robert Brashear, Jr., M.D., Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of North Carolina School of Medicine; Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon, North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill, N.C.; With the collaboration of Alfred R. Shands, Jr., M.D., Medical Director Emeritus, Alfred I. duPont Institute of the Nemours Foundation, Wilmington, Del.; Visiting Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery (Emeritus), University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, The C. V. Mosby Company, 3301 Washington Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. (63103), 1971. 543 pages with 419 illustrations and a bibliography of 1466 titles, \$15.50.

This is an introductory textbook of orthopedics which is appropriate for medical students, interns and those who are receiving exposure to orthopedics for the first time. It is a newly revised edition of a long established textbook which has served medical students well for many years. The authors are well recognized authorities in the field who write lucidly and concisely. The book has been updated in numerous chapters where there have been recent advances in diagnosis and treatment of the musculoskeletal system.

WAYNE H. AKESON, M.D.

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PSORIASIS—Proceedings of the International Symposium, Stanford University, 1971—Edited by Eugene M. Farber, M.D., Professor of Dermatology, Stanford University; Alvin J. Cox, M.D., Professor of Pathology in Dermatology, Stanford University, Stanford University Press, Stanford, Ca. (94305), 1971, 478 pages, \$18.50

This book contains over fifty manuscripts which were assembled by Drs. Farber and Cox after they were presented to the International Symposium on Psoriasis held at Stanford University in 1971.

The subject matter is broad in coverage and reasonably up-to-date. The book represents the many areas of interest in this disease and effectively brings them all together so that one can obtain a comprehensive picture of current concepts in this disease. It should serve as an excellent reference book for those people who are actively interested in this field or seek special information about this disease.

RICHARD B. STOUGHTON, M.D.